



Indianapolis Gregory A. Ballard, Mayor

REBUILDINDY

Department of Public Works

PRESS RELEASE

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MEDIA CONTACT

Molly Deuberry

Director of Communications

Indianapolis Department of Public Works

Cell: 317.677.6469; molly.deuberry@indy.gov

MAYOR BALLARD GIVES PRESENTATION AT AMERICAN WATER SUMMIT IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

INDIANAPOLIS' INNOVATIVE PLAN FOR WATER, WASTEWATER UTILITIES DRAWS NATIONAL ATTENTION

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Mayor Greg Ballard today presented to the country's leaders in water-related issues at a conference in Washington, D.C., his innovative plan to transfer Indianapolis' water and wastewater utilities to Citizens Energy Group.

"Many cities across the country are struggling to improve their infrastructure, and they are looking for creative solutions to avoid tax increases and borrowing, as we have in Indianapolis," said Mayor Ballard. "Our plan to consolidate our water and wastewater utilities into Citizens, our non-profit charitable public trust, allows us to make rates 25 percent lower by 2025 than they would have otherwise been, invest more than \$425 million in infrastructure, and remove local partisan politics and short-term thinking from our critical utilities. I am pleased to share our approach with government and industry leaders from around the nation."

Mayor Ballard was invited to present at the American Water Summit on a six-member panel focused on new funding models for infrastructure. The 2010 American Water Summit has brought together leaders and industry authorities from around the country to talk about the challenges regarding water across the U.S.

Kathy Shandling, executive director of the International Private Water Association and chair of the panel, shared, "We are thrilled to have Mayor Ballard join this much anticipated panel focused on innovative financial tools. Indianapolis and the Mayor certainly lead the way when it comes to water public-private partnership structures and proactive thinking for effectively addressing the ongoing rising financial challenges associated with delivering sustainable municipal water and wastewater operations to the City's population."

The transfer of the water and wastewater utilities to Citizens Energy Group, a non-profit charitable public trust, was approved by the City-County Council July 26. If it is approved by the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC), the City will invest more than \$425 million into the RebuildIndy program. This is in addition to the \$88 million already committed for transportation improvements in 2010.

RebuildIndy is the City's initiative to rebuild deteriorating thoroughfares, residential streets, sidewalks, and bridges, as well as address neighborhood drainage and flooding issues and demolish unsalvageable abandoned homes that pose a public safety threat to neighborhoods. Infrastructure improvements will create local jobs and ultimately increase public safety for neighborhoods and residents, which supports Mayor Ballard's commitment to make Indianapolis a more livable city. For details on the proposed utilities transfer, visit www.indy.gov/utilities. To learn more about the American Water Summit, visit www.americanwatersummit.com.

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